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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT 00 ADS 00 OCS 06 HA 05 PA-01 SS DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
SP-02 CIAE-00 INR 10 NSAF-00 /055 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI JLHIRSCH JEF

APPROVED BY NEA/IAI:DAKORN

CA/OCS/FMR:LANGULO

REVIEWED BY JL

DATE 8/18/81

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

P 250524Z SEP 80

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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E.O. 12065:N/A

TAGS PORT. CASC, IS

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF BLACK AMERICAN GROUP AT BEN GURION AIRPORT

REFS: A. STATE 253364; B. TEL AVIV 17532

1. IOU ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DON FULLER AND MYRTLE WASHINGTON MET WITH KORN, HIRSCH AND ANGULO, CA/OCS EMP. SEPTEMBER 24 TO DISCUSS OUR FOLLOW-UP TO FULLER'S SEPTEMBER 9 LETTER. KORN TOLD THEM THAT AMBASSADOR LEWIS PERSONALLY HAD RAISED OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE TREATMENT WHICH HIS GROUP HAD RECEIVED AT BEN GURION AIRPORT WITH ISRAELI MFA DG KIMCHE AND HAD PROVIDED HIM WITH COPY OF FULLER LETTER. IN ADDITION, KORN HAD GIVEN A COPY OF THE LETTER TO NEFUSHTAN AND DISCUSSED IT WITH VISITING MFA NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION HEAD RANON; ISRAELI EMBASSY WAS FORWARDING LETTER TO MFA. KORN FURTHER TOLD FULLER THAT WE HAD PROTESTED GOI REFUSAL TO ALLOW THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GROUP TO CONTACT THE EMBASSY. ISRAELI MFA SAID IT WOULD BE LOOKING INTO THE INCIDENT AND ALSO EXAMINING WHAT COULD BE DONE TO PREVENT SUCH INCIDENTS IN FUTURE. KORN ASSURED FULLER THAT IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE REPLY FROM MFA WITHIN REASONABLE TIME, WE WOULD FOLLOW UP AGAIN.

3. FULLER MADE CLEAR THAT HE REGARDED THIS INCIDENT AS INVOLVING BASIC VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IN ADDITION TO THE GROUP'S DETENTION AND EXPULSION WITHOUT EXPLANATION HE WAS PARTICULARLY DISTURBED THAT ISRAELIS HAD CONDUCTED STRIP SEARCH OF REVEREND KENYATTA. FULLER THEN ASKED SERIES OF QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER BLACKS OR OTHERS HAD BEEN DENIED ENTRY TO ISRAEL IN THE PAST AND WHETHER DEPARTMENT HAD A LIST OF THEIR NAMES SO THAT HE COULD CORROBORATE SUCH CASES. KORN SAID FULLER SHOULD WRITE THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THE FOI PROCEDURES TO REQUEST THIS INFORMATION BUT ALSO NOTED THAT PRIVACY ACT CONSIDERATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE EXAMINED IN CONSIDERING THIS REQUEST. TO FULLER'S QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE LEGAL ACTION HE COULD TAKE AGAINST GOI, KORN

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SAID THAT IF GROUP WANTS TO PURSUE THIS ROUT IT WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN AN ISRAELI LAWYER AND PURSUE THE MATTER IN THE ISRAELI COURT SYSTEM BEFORE USG COULD CONSIDER ANY SUPPORTING ACTION. HE RECOMMENDED THAT FULLER NOT MAKE ANY DECISION UNTIL HE RECEIVES REPLY FROM MEA.

4. FULLER ALSO TOOK EXCEPTION TO INTERIM REPLY HE HAD RECEIVED FROM ISRAELI EMBASSY (FIRST SECRETARY BENJAMIN . BENJAMIN'S LETTER SAID FULLER'S COMPLAINT HAD BEEN COUCHED IN "EXTREMIST TERMINOLOGY" WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE COMPLAINT TO BE INVESTIGATED. FULLER SAID HE BELIEVES ISRAELI ACTION VIOLATED VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SAID HE DID NOT FEEL HIS LETTER HAD BEEN INAPPROPRIATE.

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5. KORN REVIEWED IN SOME DETAIL GOI PROBLEM WITH THE BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY AND GOI'S CONCERN TO AVOID ILLEGAL IMMI GRATION. AT THE SAME TIME, HE MADE CLEAR THAT U.S. SHARES FULLER'S CONCERN ABOUT THE AIRPORT INCIDENT.

6. IN CLOSING, KORN ASSURED FIM THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS CASE AND THAT OUR OBJECTIVE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MEA WOULD FOCUS ON TRYING TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS TO PREVENT SUCH INCIDENTS FROM REOCCURRING.

CHRISTOPHER

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